

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
SECRET

25X1A2a

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

of Aktivs will vary quite distinctly. The urgency, also, with which the various Aktivs must be built up will vary considerably, with the Shop Group Aktivs now holding top priority. To explain the differences between the (types) the following additional details are offered:

- a. The Partei-Aktiv of the Landesverband: About three months ago the Landesverband ordered the formation of a single Aktiv in which the most progressive and reliable

brought together. As so much the setting of an existing one. The original Aktiv of the Landesverband had been made up of those party members who had worked themselves into prominent positions in the party and who, as communists, occupied more or less leading positions in the party, in government, in industry, or in group organizations. Essentially, this Aktiv was not an activists' group at all, but rather a union of party veterans. It was clear that it was not a militant organization ready for the class struggle, and that it would need new blood to fit it for coming assignments. Consequently, the Kreise were instructed to select members who by virtue of experience, training, ability, and willingness were suitable for membership, and to make them available for a new Aktiv of the Landesverband. It cannot be said positively whether the old Aktiv of the Landesverband will be dissolved and its place taken by the new organizations, or whether it will absorb the latter.

At present the Kreise are under instructions to furnish ten persons each for this purpose, and the Screening Commissions are to be held responsible for the reliability of the selectees. The Kreise have passed the assignment on down to the Screening Commissions of the City Districts (Stadtbezirke), who are to consult with the Screening Commissions of the appropriate House Blocks (Wohngruppen) and establish the following facts about each potential selectee:

- 1) Does the prospective selectee have a first-class ideological education, and is his knowledge and understanding so well grounded that he will not under any circumstances be seduced from his communistic convictions?
- 2) Is he capable of practical application of his knowledge under all circumstances and at every opportunity? Does he have any special ability, such as journalistic training, rhetorical talent, experience in agitation and propaganda?
- 3) Is he, under all circumstances, able and willing to accept assignments? That is, is he healthy, physically capable, and not committed to a profession or occupation from which he cannot at any required time absent himself?

Only party members for whom affirmative answers to all three of these questions can be made will be reported to Kreis headquarters as potential candidates for the required quota.

After the names of those recommended by the Kreise are received in the Landesverband, another investigation of each selectee will be made by the appropriate Personnel Commission. If the Personnel Commission concerned concurs in the Screening Commission's evaluation of the selectee's qualities, he will be sent to a special course of instruction planned for such selectees. Final selection for membership in the Landesverband Partei-Aktiv will be made only after favorable recommendations have been received based on the observations of the instructors.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A2g

- 3 -

Those persons finally selected for membership will be given a special identity card and will receive extra ration allowances.

25X1X6 ~~Comment~~ There are several opinions in party circles as to what the ultimate assignment of the Landesverband Partei-Aktiv will be. It is safe to assume, however, that they will be specially trained as agit-prop functionaries who can be used in critical political situations as storm troop officers ("Stosstruppfiziere"). Except in rare instances, it is extremely unlikely that they will be used as a closed formation or committed as a unit. In all probability they will be used individually at first to organize Aktivs in other party units.)

- b. The Shop Group Aktivs: The effort is being made to build up these Aktivs into two different types of "Einsatzgruppen" and to select the personnel for them on the basis of the two types of work to be done. The one group will seek to become leaders in the professional, technical, or industrial activity of their place of work and to a certain extent will hold their political aims secret. The other group will seek to influence the political direction of the firm or office, and for them the technical work of the firm will be secondary. Although personnel will be selected with the different assignments in mind and a distinction will be made within the Aktivs between the two types, there will not be a formal grouping of the two apparent to an outsider.

The over-all character of the party assignments of these Aktivs will, of course, vary with the place of work.

- 1) The Aktivs in large industries in the Soviet Sector will serve as models of increased production as in the Stakhanovite movement or the "Henneckebezugung" in the Soviet Zone. Further, they will infiltrate and attempt to control plant leadership and will agitate for social measures. The members selected for political work will be responsible for the detection of theft, sabotage, and espionage within the plant and for reporting on the orientation of employees and their political activities outside of the plant.
- 2) Although the Aktivs of governmental agencies and mass organizations have been even less well known than other Aktivs, they have in fact existed for some time.

In the Volksrat (Peoples' Council), every SED member who has performed a special assignment for the party (e.g., extra work during the "Volksbegehren" activity of the spring of 1948) is considered as belonging to the Aktiv. These Aktivs have until recently been charged only with the infiltration of controlling positions and the observation of the personal and political activities of other employees. Of late, in the administrative offices of the Soviet Sector, where the shortage of qualified personnel is making itself felt, the Aktivs have been urged to work toward greater efficiency in their particular offices.

- 3) Aktivs within the Soviet Sector police formations will be built up by political commissars assigned to each police unit. These commissars will be responsible not only for the general political instruction and supervision of their units, but also for organizing cells of particularly reliable party members. These cells have already been referred to in party circles as "Polizeiaktivs".

~~SECRET~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25X1A2a

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 4 -

25X1X6

(~~SECRET~~ Comment: The so-called political commissars are usually graduates of the Polit-Kultur courses which have been given at the Advanced Police School of the German Administration of the Interior since August 1948. The political commissars will be second in command in each police unit and will outrank the functional deputy.)

- c. ~~SECRET~~ The Aktivs of the SED Kreise: These Aktivs are not a new formation, but within the last three months they have undergone a considerable change. Fundamentally, the Kreis Aktivs as they now stand are simply a loose grouping of members of proved ability and of members with the qualifications of functionaries who, because of their assignments outside the party, do not hold office in the lower party levels.

25X1X6

25X1X6

(~~SECRET~~ Comment: It is not clear just what ~~SECRET~~ means by the latter category. One assumes he is speaking of reliable members who have attained significant positions outside the party and who are too busy to concern themselves with routine party work.)

Thus, the Kreis Aktivs constitute a functionary reserve from which the Kreis leadership can from time to time draw talent for specific assignments. At present, for example, efforts are being made to use the Kreis Aktivs to form new shop groups and strengthen old ones. Further, it is hoped that internal party organization and performance can be strengthened through use of the Kreis Aktivs. It is now planned that to alleviate the shortage of functionaries, personnel can be drawn from the Kreis Aktivs and, without being definitely and permanently appointed to particular posts, perform the duties temporarily.

25X1X6 In the future an attempt will be made to assign to the Kreis Aktivs members with experience applicable to agit-prop work.

(~~SECRET~~ Comment: For purposes of explaining the composition and purpose of the various Aktivs it has been necessary to define them somewhat more concretely than they in reality are. That is to say, a description of the various Aktiv organizations must necessarily give the impression that they are sharply differentiated, permanent formations. This is not the case: as with all other SED organizations they are all more or less shifting in their composition and apt at any moment to be redesignated or reorganized.

One must also guard against the idea that only these groups can be committed for political activity: each party formation can at any time organize additional or different Aktivs, and each Aktiv can spawn other Aktivs to fit a situation. An example of the creation of Aktivs for special purposes is the recent organization of the so-called "Presseaktiv". This was set up in December, composed of the most important SPD correspondents of Berlin, and will be given special training by the Landesverband department responsible for publicity and press affairs. The Press Aktiv will be responsible for reforming and improving the party press.

It must also be considered that there is usually a wide gap between the plans of the party leadership and the actual accomplishment. Party circles, especially the veteran communists, are most skeptical of the chances that the Aktivs will actually be formed as the Landesverband has planned. First, they point out, there are simply not enough qualified party members, and, second, the higher functionaries of the party will work on this program only grudgingly because the new functionary formations would bring capable professional rivals to the fore.)